

I thank Chief Svetanics for his service to his family, community, nation, and to his beloved firefighters all over the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF EL
PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the El Paso County's Commissioners Court who signed the following resolution.

Whereas, a "Super-Committee" was formed and tasked to reduce \$1.2 Trillion from our Nation's budget over the next 10 years, but failed at their mission; and,

Whereas, the Department of Defense could endure budget cuts of \$487 Billion throughout the next 10 years; and,

Whereas, due to the failure of the "Super-Committee" there is an additional \$600 Billion in potential budget cuts for deficit-reduction measures targeted towards the Department of Defense; and,

Whereas, future budget reductions of this nature can potentially affect all branches of Defense with reduction of employment and could decrease the benefits that our troops and past veterans receive; and,

Whereas, future reductions should raise concerns of National Security and the ability to defend our Country from future extremities; and,

Whereas, the United States of America has fought for freedom since its creation and knows that freedom does not come easy and it definitely does not come without a price tag; and,

Whereas, our Military's men and women are to be held at the upmost respect and honor for the service they provide to our Country and they should feel assured that they are a priority and the American people are behind them; and,

Whereas, policies of this type have the ability to create an internal decrease in morale and the capability to deter future enlistments to our volunteer military; and,

Whereas, recent developments of Russia and China vetoing a United Nations resolution aimed at ending Syria's violence should raise concerns that the United States should keep its military in full force and maintain their combat readiness for these potential adversaries and other; and, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court hereby disagree with any future budget cuts that can affect National Security and Benefits provided to our Veterans that have defended our Nation from opposing threats and to all of our soldiers that continue to protect our Country's future and our children's future by placing their own lives in harm's way.

Signed, this 13th day of February 2012.

Commissioner Anna Perez Pct. 1

Commissioner Sergio Lewis Pct. 2

Commissioner Willie Gandara Pct. 3

Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty Pct. 4

County Judge Veronica Escobar

HONORING CHAIRMAN RICHARD M.
MILANOVICH OF THE AGUA
CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA
INDIANS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart after the passing of Chairman Richard M. Milanovich of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Chairman Milanovich grew up on the reservation in Section 14 in Southern California, where poverty was rampant. Currently, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located in Palm Springs, California with 32,000 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains.

Mr. Milanovich has always been dedicated to serving his tribal nation and his country, where he served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1963 and was stationed in Munich, Germany, during the Cold War. He later returned to school to fulfill a lifelong ambition to secure his college degree and received a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management from the University of Redlands in 1996.

Mr. Milanovich returned to the Agua Caliente reservation and started as a member of the tribal council in 1978. He then quickly ascended through the ranks to serve as secretary from 1982 to 1984, before he was elected chairman.

The Chairman's connection to his tribe's history was never lost in his efforts to reinforce tribal sovereignty for Indians across the country. He was a strong practitioner and supporter of the ancient traditions, ceremonies and practices that are important to Indian people. But he was also a very strong leader in 21st-century Indian America.

Through Chairman Milanovich's leadership, he helped craft mutual land-use agreements with Cathedral City in 1984 and with Rancho Mirage and Riverside County about five years later, modeled on an agreement struck with Palm Springs in the late 1970s. The intergovernmental agreements were among the first of their kind and served as a model for tribes throughout the rest of the country.

His first major undertaking was the purchase of the Spa Hotel in Palm Springs in 1992. Since then, his 28-year role as a leader of Agua Caliente has allowed the tribe to develop self-sufficiency through education, cultural preservation, housing, and health care programs.

Aside from raising his own tribal membership out of poverty and into self-sufficiency, Chairman Milanovich has contributed his time and wisdom to many advisory committees, charities, and other efforts to better Indian Country and the lives of people across the country. He served as the chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Office of Special Trustee for the U.S. Department of the Interior, which oversees the federal government's fiduciary responsibilities to manage tribal trust funds. In 2004, he was appointed to the Na-

tive American Stewardship Committee for the prestigious Autry National Center. Chairman Milanovich also served as a member of the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Advisory Council, and the Native American Heritage Commission. The tribal leader served as an advocate for HIV prevention with the Desert AIDS Project for more than 10 years. As well as having the Agua Caliente tribe partner with the City of Hope's "Hike 4 Hope" each year at the Indian Canyons trail. The hiking event supports women's cancer programs at the foundation.

Indian Country has lost a true leader and staple of the ideals of sovereignty and self-sufficiency. His leadership will not be forgotten and his efforts will be the foundation of the future for Indian tribes throughout the United States.

BREESE CENTRAL CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Breese Central High School Cougars upon winning the 2012 IHSA Class 2A Boys' State Basketball Championship.

This victory is the perfect end to a remarkable season, in which the Cougars recorded 32 wins and only one loss. The Cougars beat the South Holland Sting to advance to the championship game, where they defeated the Normal Pioneers 53-47 and earned their first state championship.

I would like to recognize Head Coach Stan Eagleson, Assistant Coaches David Thomas, Kurt Peters, Jeremy Shubert, Donny Petterson, and Ryan Meyer, Trainer Marty Stewart, and the players themselves: Justin Becker, Brandon Book, Nick Grapperhaus, Tanner Imming, Luke Jackson, Greg Meyer, Luis Perez, Austin Rickhoff, Kyler Scheer, Andrew Schulte, Noah Stockmann, Gavin Thomas, and Jacob Timmermann.

Congratulations to the Breese Central Cougars for their championship and their incredible season. I look forward to next season, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes.

Following are the votes I missed and how I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 112, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 113, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 114, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."